

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Laying apparatus for cables, lines, or conductors, the laying apparatus having a hydraulic circuit comprising:

a variable delivery feed pump for pumping oil through the hydraulic circuit,
a motor, hydraulically connected to said feed pump, and able to drive laying means for laying said cables, lines, or conductors,

detection means for measuring the pressure of the oil inside said hydraulic circuit and comparing the measured pressure with a pre-determined pressure value,

at least one command member of said feed pump which controls delivery of said feed pump, and

valve means connected to said detection means[[,]] and able to modify operation of said hydraulic circuit by acting on said at least one command member of said feed pump which controls delivery of the feed pump to reduce the hydraulic delivery of said feed pump in the event that the pressure measured exceeds said pre-determined pressure value;

wherein said detection means and said valve means are of the hydraulic type, and said valve means comprises a valve able to be selectively activated to act on the at least one command member of said feed pump to vary the hydraulic delivery of said feed pump;

an actuator, wherein said at least one command member is mechanically connected to said actuator kept in an intermediate position of balance by counteracting elastic means for balancing said actuator arranged inside respective containing chambers;

wherein said actuator comprises a hydraulic actuator, at least one of said containing chambers is connected to said valve means, and the activation of said valve means determines the axial displacement of said hydraulic actuator for inverting the direction of pumping or reducing the hydraulic delivery of the feed pump;

a distributor valve connected to said containing chambers that axially displaces the actuator in accordance with a manual command, wherein said valve means predominates over said distributor valve in affecting the displacement of the actuator.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) Apparatus as in claim 1, further comprising a pre-loading pump for preventing cavitation and sudden variations in pressure inside said hydraulic circuit.

6. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as in claim 1, wherein said feed pump is of the reversible type and is connected to said motor by two symmetrical pipes, so that each of said two pipes is functionable either as a delivery pipe or return pipe.

7-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as in claim 6, further comprising two limit valves, symmetrically located parallel to said symmetrical pipes, that recirculate the oil pumped by the feed pump when said motor is subjected to excessive forces.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) Laying machine for cables, lines, or conductors, the laying machine comprising:

laying means, for simultaneously laying a plurality of cables, lines, or conductors, comprising a plurality of laying apparatuses as in claim 1, correlated in number to that of said plurality of cables, lines, or conductors simultaneously laid, to be able to regulate, in an independent manner, each respective threshold of intervention for reducing the hydraulic delivery of the feed pump of each of the respective laying apparatuses in the event that the respective pressure measured exceeds said respective pre-determined pressure value.

13-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) Laying machine for cables, lines, or conductors, the laying machine comprising:

laying means able to simultaneously lay a plurality of cables, lines, or conductors comprising a plurality of laying apparatuses as in claim [[4]] 1, correlated in number to that of said plurality of cables, lines, or conductors simultaneously laid, to be able to regulate in an independent manner, each respective threshold of intervention for reducing the hydraulic delivery of the feed pump in response to the pre-determined pressure value of each of the respective laying apparatuses.

18-20. (Cancelled)